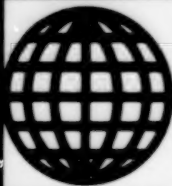


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8 JULY 1988



**FOREIGN
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JPRS Report

Soviet Union

Political Affairs

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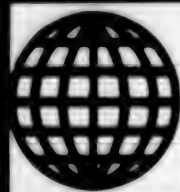
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FICTIONALIZED REPORT ON FIRST ANNIVERSARY OF CHERNOBYL ACCIDENT

Moscow YUNOST in Russian No 6, 1987 pp 46-66

["Magazine version" of Yuriy Shcherbak's "Chernobyl: A Documentary Story"; Part 1; first paragraph is YUNOST introduction]

[Text]"Again the Zone! And suddenly I feel that chill on my skin... Every time I have that chill, and I still do not know whether it is because this is how the Zone is meeting me, or whether my nerves are playing tricks on me... Intelligence is the ability to use the forces of the surrounding world without destroying that world." A. Strugatskiya, B. Strugatskiya, "Piknik na obochine" [Picnic on the Side of the Road], 1972.

A year has passed since the accident at the Chernobyl Nuclear Power Plant.

Just a year.

But how remote, how idyllically serene that pre-Chernobyl world now seems to us -- a world that was calm, unhurried, and self-sufficient, a world that had existed for years in somnolent, blissful, completely contented placidity.

For everyone who was involved directly or indirectly in the Chernobyl tragedy, it is as though time has been split into two unequal parts: before 26 April 1986 and after. This is exactly how one of the heroines in our story, Aneliya Perkovskaya, puts it: "This is very similar to the war. All of us, including the fellows at the gorkom, still make the distinction: it was before the war or it was after the war. And we even express it that way: 'that happened before the war.'"

The time that has passed since the accident, and especially the first, most difficult months, which seemed to last an entire eternity, can be divided into several eras, stages, periods -- call them what you wish -- with their own special features and attributes, and clearly outlined time frame -- from one with the most astonishing beauty, with the snowy-white blossoming of the orchards and the overflowing of the rivers in the tragic Ukrainian spring of 1986, which from this day on will enter all the history textbooks and all the chronicles and legends of mankind, to the deep, hazy autumn, when a meeting was held in Chernobyl: the operations to erect the sarcophagus -- a structure that sealed off the damaged fourth unit -- had been completed.

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AFTERMATH OF CHERNOBYL NUCLEAR POWER PLANT ACCIDENT - PART IV

[For Part I of this material see JPRS-UPS-86-038 of 6 August 1986, for Part II see JPRS-UPS-87-004 of 22 January 1987, for Part III see JPRS-UPS-87-023 of 27 March 1987]

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